MARVEL
FOXE
BROCCARDO
REBER
CHASM
CURSE OF KAINE

"A reminder of how great the Scarlet Spiders are."
—AIPT

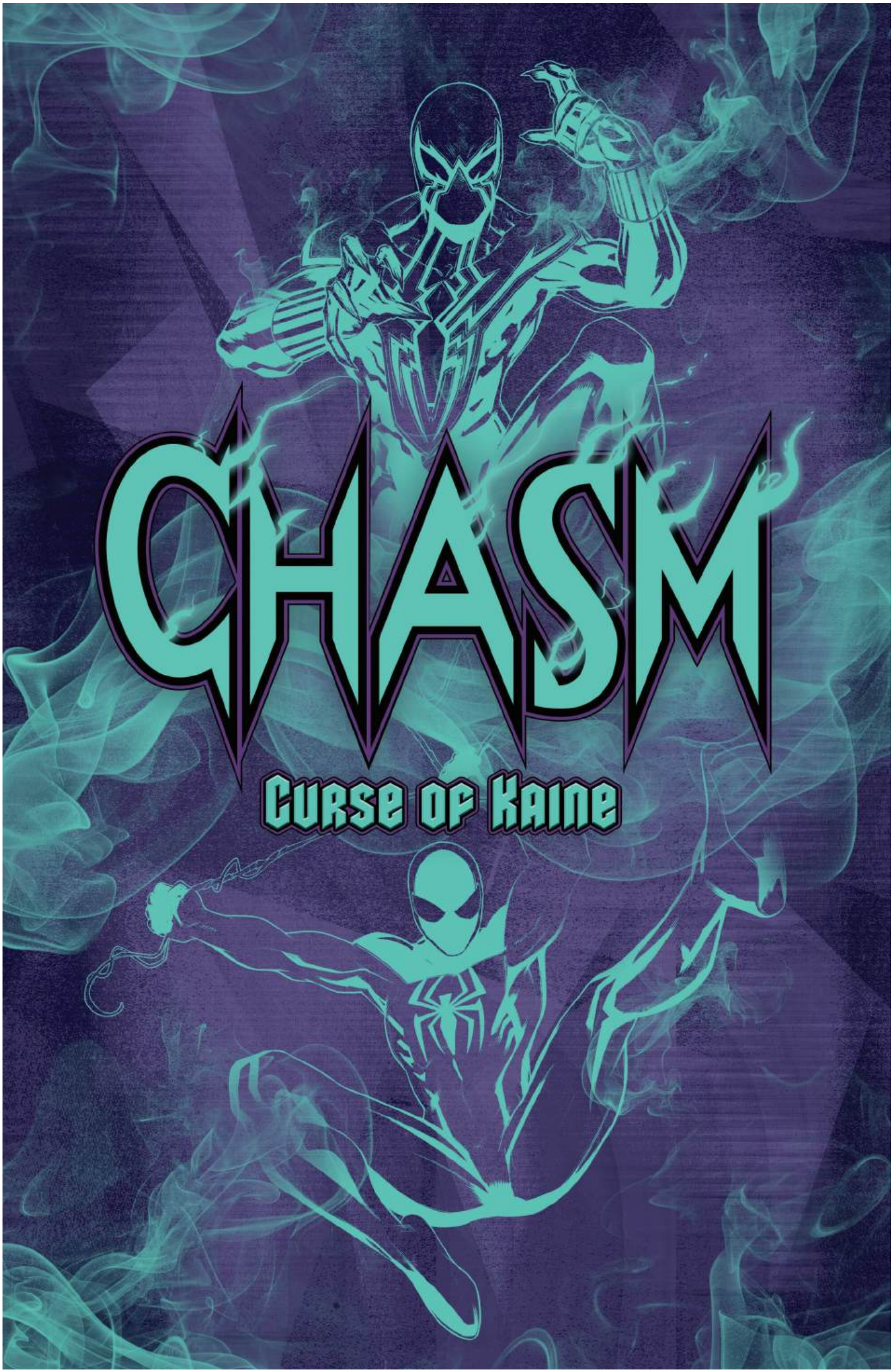
BATTLE OF THE SPIDER-CLONES!

KAINE PARKER IS ON A MISSION to track down fellow clone Ben Reilly, but has becoming Chasm made Ben beyond saving? Or is there an even more menacing presence pulling his strings? Chasm's mind has been manipulated more than once – first by the Jackal, and then by the Beyond Corporation – but now someone even more terrifying is digging fingers into his beleaguered brain. And Ben's only hope might just be Kaine, who at this moment very much believes the only solution to Chasm is death!

T+

MARVEL

COLLECTING ***CHASM: CURSE OF KAINE #1-4*** AND MATERIAL FROM ***WEB OF SPIDER-MAN (2024) #1*** –
BY STEVE FOXE, ANDREA BROCCARDO, GREG LAND, JAY LEISTEN, BRIAN REBER AND FRANK D'ARMATA.


CHASM
Curse of Kaine

BEN REILLY and **KAINE PARKER** are better known as **CHASM** and **SCARLET SPIDER**. Each clones of **SPIDER-MAN**, they share their progenitor's abilities of the proportional speed, strength, and agility of a spider and adhesive fingertips and toes. Chasm's Spider-Sense was augmented by an experimental **PSYCHOACTIVE GOO**, which not only warns him of immediate danger but can also form physical objects to defend against the danger. While Kaine has often walked a darker path than Ben, they've recently found their roles reversed.

When Ben Reilly became Chasm, he lost all of his defining memories and, by extension, his morals. With his girlfriend, **HALLOWS' EVE**, at his side, Chasm finds himself with lots of power, no responsibility and the freedom to do whatever he wants, if only he could figure out what that is.

Meanwhile, Kaine Parker has heard about his fellow clone's turn toward evil and decided it was time for a brotherly heart-to-heart (or a fist-to-face if their previous meetings are any indication).

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CHASM

Curse of Kaine

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WEB OF SPIDER-MAN VARIANT BY

Greg Land & **Frank D'Armata**

The Limbo Embassy.
New York City.
HERE-- THE LAST OF YOUR LITTLE ESCAPEES.
I HAVE TO ADMIT, THOUGH...
...I'D THINK YOUR MISTRESS COULD CLEAN UP HER OWN MESSES.
GOOD THING HE DIDN'T TRY SAYING THAT TO MADDIE'S FACE.
SAYING WHAT, DEAR HAVOK?

Madelyne Pryor.
Ruler of Limbo.
YOU KNOW I DON'T LIKE BEING KEPT IN THE DARK.
AH. NORMAN OSBORN BEING DISCOURTEOUS. HARDLY A SURPRISE.
GREEN OR GOLD, HE SHOULD REMEMBER WHICH ONE OF US IS THE GOBLIN QUEEN.
I WOULD HAVE JUST TOLD YOU, MADDIE. YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO RIP IT OUT OF MY MIND.
YES, BELOVED. BUT I'M A BUSY WOMAN.
SO, WHERE SHOULD WE PUT OUR LATEST RUNAWAY?
STRAIGHT BACK TO LIMBO PROPER FOR HIM.
FWOOOSH
HE WILL SUFFER CONSEQUENCES FOR HIS MISCHIEF, BUT I NEVER INTENDED TO RUN A PRISON WITHIN THESE WALLS.

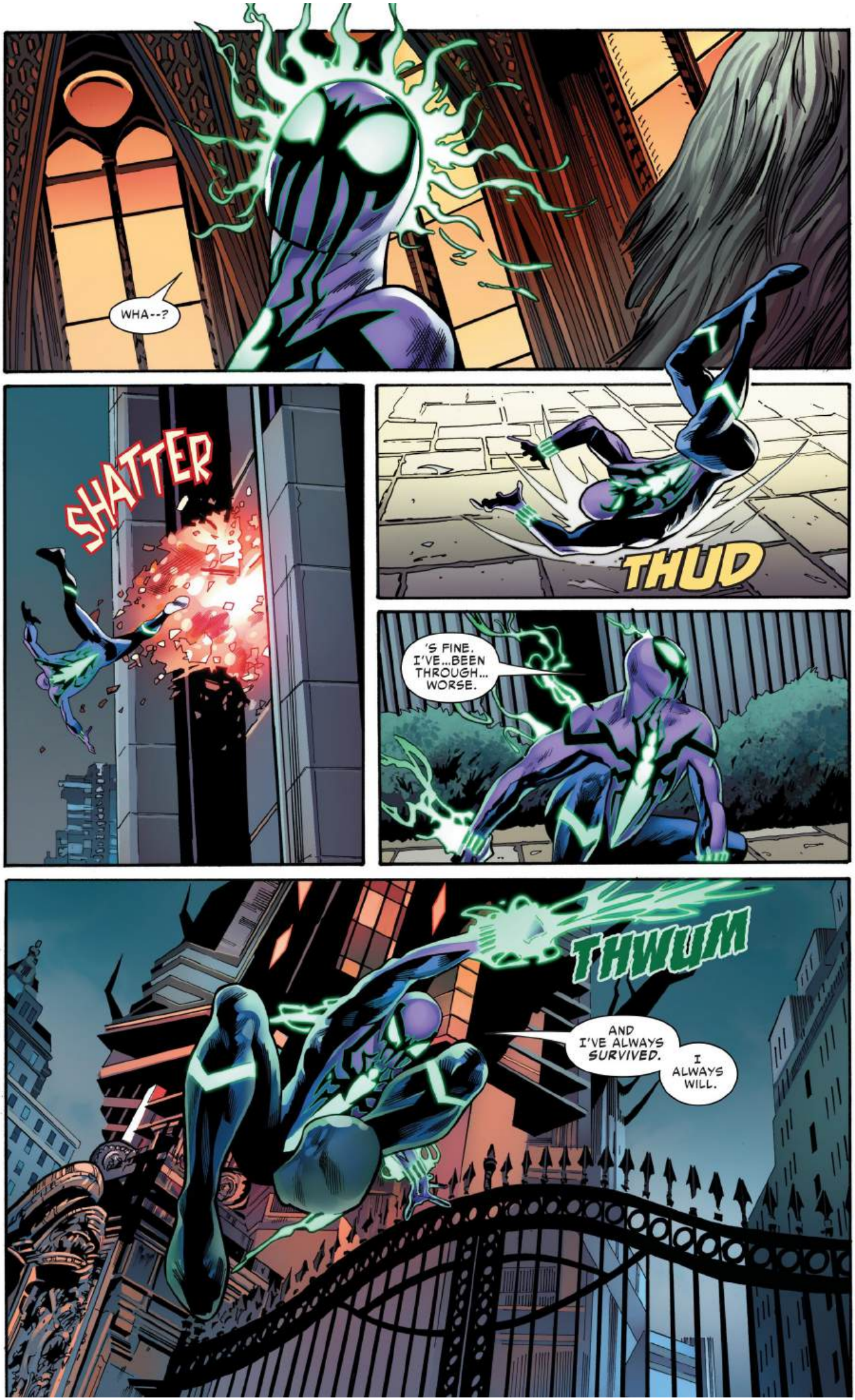
"IT GOES AGAINST EVERYTHING I'VE ENDURED."
JURKK CAN TAKE JURKK'S LUNCH BREAK. ME WILL WATCH PORTAL.
SPPLLLLRRRHH
WHY BOTHER? IT NEVER CHANGES--
HMM?
JURKK HAD BETTER CHECK THIS OUT--
ARGH!
DID PRYOR REALLY THINK I WAS IN HERE SITTING ON A LOG AND STARING OFF INTO SPACE, FEELING SORRY FOR MYSELF?

Chasm, A.K.A. Ben Reilly.
Spider-Man's corrupted clone.
MY ENERGY POWERS MAY BE NEW, BUT I'M GETTING BETTER AT THEM EVERY DAY.
AND IT LOOKS LIKE I FINALLY HAVE ENOUGH CONTROL TO DISRUPT THE WITCHY RUNES LOCKING ME IN THIS LITERAL HELLHOLE.

ALERT THE MISTRESS! SEND MORE GUARDS!
DON'T BOTHER...
KRAK
...THERE'S NO HELP TO BE FOUND IN THIS PLACE.
ONLY TORMENT.

STOP HIM!
FOR THE MISTRESS!
PRYOR THINKS MAKING MY JAIL CELL A "PARADISE" IS A KINDNESS?
SO I CAN SIT IN COMFORT WHILE I THINK ABOUT EVERYTHING I'VE LOST-- EVERYTHING THAT'S BEEN *STOLEN* FROM ME?
MY MEMORIES, MY FREEDOM-- MY *LIFE?*
THAT'S A WORSE TORTURE THAN SHE KNOWS.
AND I *REFUSE* TO KEEP SUFFERING IT!

SWOOP
SCRTCH
I REFUSE TO-- GARGHH!
KRAAAW!
I SAID...I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE.
AND NONE OF YOU--
THWACK
THUMP
--ARE GOING TO STAND IN MY WAY.


WHA--?
SHATTER
THUD
'S FINE. I'VE...BEEN THROUGH... WORSE.
THWUM
AND I'VE ALWAYS SURVIVED.
I ALWAYS WILL.

YOU COULD HAVE STOPPED HIM.
EASILY.
BUT BENJAMIN AND I BOTH SOUGHT THE MEMORIES RIGHTFULLY OWED TO US. ONE OF US SUCCEEDED--AND THE OTHER WAS PUNISHED.
IMPRISONING HIM HERE FELT LIKE THE HUMANE OPTION AT THE TIME, BUT THAT TIME HAS PASSED.
I PLAYED AT BEING A WARDEN FOR TOO LONG. IT'S NOT IN MY NATURE. SO WHATEVER PATH HE CHOOSES TO FOLLOW NOW...
"...CHASM'S FATE RESTS IN HIS OWN HANDS."

The sewers under Manhattan...
THEY'RE GONNA FIRE US FOR RUNNING OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF A SHIFT, JERRY.
#$%@ 'EM. I'D RATHER BE UNEMPLOYED THAN DEAD.
YOU SAW IT TOO.
WE AIN'T ALONE DOWN HERE.
SOUNDS LIKE MADAME WEB POINTED ME IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.
REILLY BUSTED OUT OF HIS HELL PRISON AND RAN STRAIGHT FOR THE DANKEST, DARKEST PART OF THE CITY HE COULD FIND.
Kaine.
The Scarlet Spider.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT BEN AND I OWE EACH OTHER AFTER ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH, BUT SOMEONE NEEDS TO KEEP AN EYE ON HIM WHILE HE SPIRALS--AND IT SEEMS LIKE PARKER HAS HIS HANDS FULL.

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN MY "BROTHER" AND I WERE TRADING THE SCARLET SPIDER MONIKER BACK AND FORTH. I NEVER WANTED IT--STUCK ANYWAY.
DIDN'T THINK BEN WOULD FALL INTO CHASM INSTEAD. BUT I GUESS I'VE BEEN AWAY TOO LONG. HE'S AS MESSED UP AS I EVER WAS.
DEATH IS NOTHING NEW FOR ME.
GETTING SNIPPED FROM THE WEB OF LIFE AND DESTINY--THAT WAS DIFFERENT. I CEASED TO EXIST.* IT WAS ALMOST...
*CATCH KAINE'S SHOCKING RETURN IN THE END OF THE SPIDER-VERSE TPB!
...PEACEFUL.
AND I DON'T THINK PEACE IS SOMETHING BEN'S EXPERIENCED ANY TIME LATELY.
CLAW MARKS?
#SNIFF#
GOD, IT REEKS DOWN HERE. SMELLS LIKE SOMETHING--

--DEAD AND ROTTEN?

ARGH!
SHLLRRRRD
OUT OF EVERYTHING I INHERITED FROM PARKER, SPIDER-SENSE COULDN'T BE PART OF THE PERMANANT PACKAGE?
ONLY CHEAP SHOT YOU'RE GOING TO GET, UGLY.
CAN'T PLACE THIS GUY, AND HE'S NOT A BIG TALKER.
THWIP
THWIP
GUESS I'LL HAVE TO WARM HIM UP AND SEE IF HE SQUEALS.
KRAK

HRRRNNCCCCH!
#$%@-- NOT LIKE THAT.
SLAM
WA
W
IAM
I DON'T WANT TO KILL YOU--*WHATEVER YOU ARE*--BUT I'M NOT DYING SURROUNDED BY HUMAN WASTE EITHER.

GRRRNNCHH!
HE HAVING SOME KIND OF FIT? I DIDN'T HIT HIM THAT HARD.
GLOWING RED EYES. NOT A GOOD OMEN.
WAIT, DON'T--
AH, SCREW IT. I DIDN'T COME DOWN HERE TO FIGHT FREAKS.

NO SIGN OF BEN--CHASM--IN THIS TUNNEL SYSTEM.
JUST BIG NASTY BACK THERE.
AND HE'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS. TRACKING DOWN REILLY IS GOING TO GIVE ME ENOUGH OF A HEADACHE AS IT IS.
IT'S NOT MY RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP SEWER WORKERS SAFE. THEY GET WORKMAN'S COMP.
HISS!
WHATEVER SPELL CAME OVER THAT THING WAS PRETTY EERIE--THOUGH--IT COULD BE MIXED UP IN WHATEVER BEN'S GOTTEN HIMSELF INTO...
DAMN IT.
JUST CAN'T STAMP OUT THAT TWINGE OF GUILT WHEN I SENSE A PROBLEM POPPING UP, CAN I?
SORRY, BEN...
I WILL FIND YOU, BUT I NEED TO MAKE SURE THE MONSTERS IN THE SHADOWS AREN'T TOO BIG AND BAD.
GOOD BOY, FREAK. YOU CAME WHEN SUMMONED.
NOT THAT YOU HAD A CHOICE.

I'VE LIVED A VERY LONG TIME, YOU KNOW.
SOMETIMES ONE PLOTS AND SCHEMES SIMPLY TO KEEP THE DAYS INTERESTING.
I'VE FOUND A GREAT MANY DISGUSTINGLY DEVIANT TOYS BENEATH THESE METROPOLITAN STREETS...BUT I GROW DISINTERESTED ALREADY.
Druig.
Eternal--and amoral.
PERHAPS A FEW ITSY-BITSY SPIDERS WILL ENLIVEN PROCEEDINGS.
I HAVE ALWAYS EXCELLED AT PITTING FAMILY AGAINST ONE ANOTHER.

ONE

LONG ISLAND CITY, QUEENS.
I'M JUST SAYING, AN "UNDERGROUND RAVE" DOESN'T NEED TO BE LITERALLY UNDERGROUND.
YEAH, BUT THAT'S WHAT MAKES IT COOL.
DON'T WIMP OUT ON US NOW.
I'M JUST NOT SURE WE GOT THE RIGHT STATION, IS ALL.
THIS ONE LOOKS, LIKE, CONDEMNED, NOT JUST ABANDONED.
WELL, YOU CAN'T THROW AN ILLEGAL PARTY IN A SUBWAY STATION THAT'S EASY TO GET TO, MAN.
MR. SUBWAY EXPERT FROM RED BANK OVER HERE.
YOU'RE FROM JERSEY TOO!
WAIT, DID YOU HEAR THAT?
C'MON, YOU'RE JUST BEING PAR-- AHH!
HRRRGGKK...

HOLY #$%&--
SHOULDN'T... BE HERE!
THWACK
AHH!

CAN YOU ROWDY KIDS KEEP IT DOWN?
MY LADY AND I JUST MOVED INTO THE NEIGHBORHOOD...
THWUM
CHACK
...AND THE REALTOR TOLD US IT WAS NICE AND QUIET.
OH MY GOSH. IT'S YOU.
SPIDER--

I'D BITE MY TONGUE IF I WERE YOU.
OTHERWISE, I MIGHT HAVE TO RIP IT RIGHT OUT OF YOUR HEAD.
THE NAME'S CHASM.
THE PRETTY LADY IS HALLOWS EVE.
WHAT THE HELL KIND OF SHINDIG DID WE JUST CRASH?

VERMIN, MAKE THEM... LEAVE!
HISSSS!
HISSSSSSS!
YOU GET WHAT WE CAME FOR, CHASM.
FRANKEN-EVE-HANDLE-PEST-CONTROL!
HRRROOAARGHH!

YOU HEARD THE LOVELY HALLOWS' EVE, KID.
HAND OVER YOUR CASH AND CREDIT CARDS.
WH-WHAT?
BUT YOU'RE HEROES. D-DO HEROES CHARGE IN N-NEW YORK?
THUMP
SQUEAAK!
AH, YEAH-- YOU MUST BE FROM OUT OF TOWN.
HEROES DEFINITELY CHARGE, AND WE FOR SURE WEREN'T ABOUT TO ROB YOU. SWEAR ON CAP'S SHIELD.
IT'S KIND OF IN THE AVENGERS BYLAWS, SO IF YOU'RE FEELING STINGY, WE CAN JUST LEAVE YOU TO HANDLE THIS YOURSELF...
HERE! TAKE IT! TAKE IT ALL!

TOLDJA THESE KIDS WERE LOADED, BABE.
THWACK
YOU CAN ALWAYS RELY ON ME TO BRING HOME THE BACON.
GAK!
HEY, ARE THESE THINGS EVEN--
--SEN... TIENT...?
HMM, WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE...?

CREEEEEEEAAAAAK
AH. AS CLOSE TO A TABULA RASA AS I'M LIKELY TO FIND WITH THE COSTUMED SET.
THIS COULD BE AN AMUSING DIVERSION...
FRANKEN-EVE-NOT-SURE!
HUH? NOT SURE OF WHAT?
FRANKEN-EVE-NOT-SURE-RATS-PEOPLE-TOO!
BUT-VERY-SURE-TEETH-SHARP!

AH, CRAP. OKAY, WELL, LET'S TRY NOT TO KILL ANY MORE, JUST IN CASE.
LAST THING WE NEED IS THE A.S.P.C.A. ON OUR TAILS TOO.
SNAP
HELLO, 9-1-1?
WE'RE BEING ATTACKED BY... ACTUALLY, IT'S PRETTY HARD TO SUMMARIZE--
HEADS UP, EVE-- MS. PARTY POOPER OVER THERE JUST CALLED THE HEAT.
EVE?
BEN! HE GRABBED ME WHEN I WAS SWITCHING MASKS--
LEAVE!
LET HER GO!

NOT FAR AWAY, IN THE SEWERS...
IF I HAD KNOWN I'D SPEND SO MUCH TIME SMELLING #$%&, I WOULD HAVE CONSIDERED *STAYING DEAD.*
FIGURES THAT *BEN REILLY* WOULD BREAK OUT OF A *HELL DIMENSION* AND DECIDE TO HIDE OUT IN THE SEWERS INSTEAD OF-- I DON'T KNOW--BOOKING A ONE-WAY TICKET TO A TROPICAL BEACH A THOUSAND MILES AWAY FROM HERE.*
MAYBE I'M WRONG. MAYBE I *DON'T* OWE "CHASM" ANYTHING ANYMORE. MAYBE HE AND I HAVE CIRCLED EACH OTHER ONE TOO MANY TIMES AS IT IS...
CHASM ESCAPED THE LIMBO PRISON IN THE BLOCKBUSTER **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #1**, ON SHELVES NOW!

WE'RE NOT REAL BROTHERS. WE'RE JUST CLONES. SIMILAR COMBINATIONS OF MESSED-UP PETER PARKER DNA AND JACKAL MAD SCIENCE.
FINDING THAT OUT MADE ME A KILLER. BEN THOUGHT IT MADE HIM A HERO.
SO IT'S A SICK JOKE THAT WE BOTH ENDED UP SADDLED WITH THE SCARLET SPIDER MONIKER.
I NEVER EVEN WANTED IT. JUST MY LUCK THAT IT STUCK FOR ME...
...WHILE LIFE TOOK BEN DOWN DARKER ROADS.
FIRST, THE BEYOND CORPORATION MESSED WITH HIS MIND AND ABILITIES, THEN HE GOT TANGLED UP WITH MUTANT DRAMA AND LIMBO MAGIC.

AGAINST ALL ODDS, I KEEP GETTING DECENT BREAKS. SEEMS LIKE BEN JUST KEEPS GETTING BROKEN--
SCREE!
THWUMP
ARGH!
#$%&--SOME SORT OF SPIDER-SENSE WOULD BE REAL FREAKING USEFUL AT TIMES LIKE THIS.
THAT GENE CAME OUT IN THE WASH, I GUESS.
SPLASH
VERMIN--PANICKED AND IN A HURRY. EITHER I FOLLOW THEM...
THWIP
...OR I FIND OUT WHAT HAS THEM SO SCARED IN THE FIRST PLACE.

LOOKS LIKE THE VERMIN I PASSED WERE THE LUCKY ONES.
AND THESE DEAD RATS DIDN'T EVEN GET IT THE WORST.
I RECOGNIZE THAT UGLY MUG...
...FREAK. I RAN INTO HIM NOT TOO LONG AGO. WE PARTED ON REAL WEIRD TERMS.
BUT HE WAS STRONG. LEFT ME BRUISED FOR A WEEK. WHAT COULD HAVE DONE THIS TO HIM?
ALSO IN WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #1-- SERIOUSLY, GO NAB A COPY!
HELP US! SOMEBODY HELP US!

OH NO, NOT ANOTHER ONE!
PLEASE, WE GAVE YOUR FRIENDS EVERYTHING WE HAD--DON'T HURT US!
HEY! STOP YELLING!
I'M NOT GOING TO HURT YOU, AND I DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS.
WHO ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
TH-THE SPIDER-PERSON IN PURPLE AND BLACK--WITH THE SCARY WITCH GIRLFRIEND.
CHASM AND HALLOWS' EVE. I'M FINALLY CLOSE.
HELLO? WE GOT AN EMERGENCY CALL DIRECTING US TO THIS STATION.
IDENTIFY YOURSELVES, AND PUT YOUR HANDS UP!
OVER HERE! SAVE US!
CAN'T IMAGINE THE COPS CALMLY HEARING ME OUT--BETTER IF I DISAPPEAR.
BEATING HALF-ANIMAL MONSTERS TO DEATH AND ROUGHING UP KIDS...
BEN, IS THIS REALLY WHAT YOU'VE BEEN REDUCED TO?

NEARBY...
WE'RE RICH!
AS LONG AS WE MAX OUT THESE DEBIT CARDS BEFORE THEIR PARENTS CUT 'EM OFF, WE'LL BE COVERED FOR MONTHS.
I KNEW THOSE BRATS LOOKED FLUSH.
WHAT'S THE STUPIDEST THING WE CAN BLOW IT ON? CAN YOU JUST, LIKE, BUY METAL OCTOPUS TENTACLES?
OR...UGH, SHOULD WE BE RESPONSIBLE AND INVEST IT IN OUR FUTURE?
HMM...THIS CRASH PAD ALREADY HAS IT ALL--EASY ACCESS TO SUBWAY TUNNELS, PLENTY OF SPACE, A HALF-DECENT VIEW, AND THE RENT IS A STEAL.
WE SHOULD ABSOLUTELY NOT BE RESPONSIBLE.

I DIDN'T KNOW IF I'D EVER SEE THIS SIDE OF YOU AGAIN.
YOU FEEL SO... FREE.
YOU WERE RIGHT-- TRYING TO GET ALL OF SPIDER-MAN'S MEMORIES BACK WAS A DEAD END.
HALLOWS' EVE CONVINCED CHASM TO GIVE UP THAT GHOST IN AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #47-48!
DON'T NEED 'EM. NEVER DID. THAT'S NOT WHO I AM.
I'M NOT SPIDER-MAN. I'M BEN REILLY-- CHASM.
AND ALL I NEED IS YOU BY MY SIDE.
US AGAINST THE WORLD.
BAR
AND NOT EVEN HELL--OR WHATEVER LIMBO TECHNICALLY IS--COULD KEEP US APART.

BUT WHAT *HAPPENED* TO YOU BACK IN THE SUBWAY?
YOU SEEMED TO...
...*DISAPPEAR* FOR A SECOND.
HEY-- DON'T WORRY, BABY.
I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

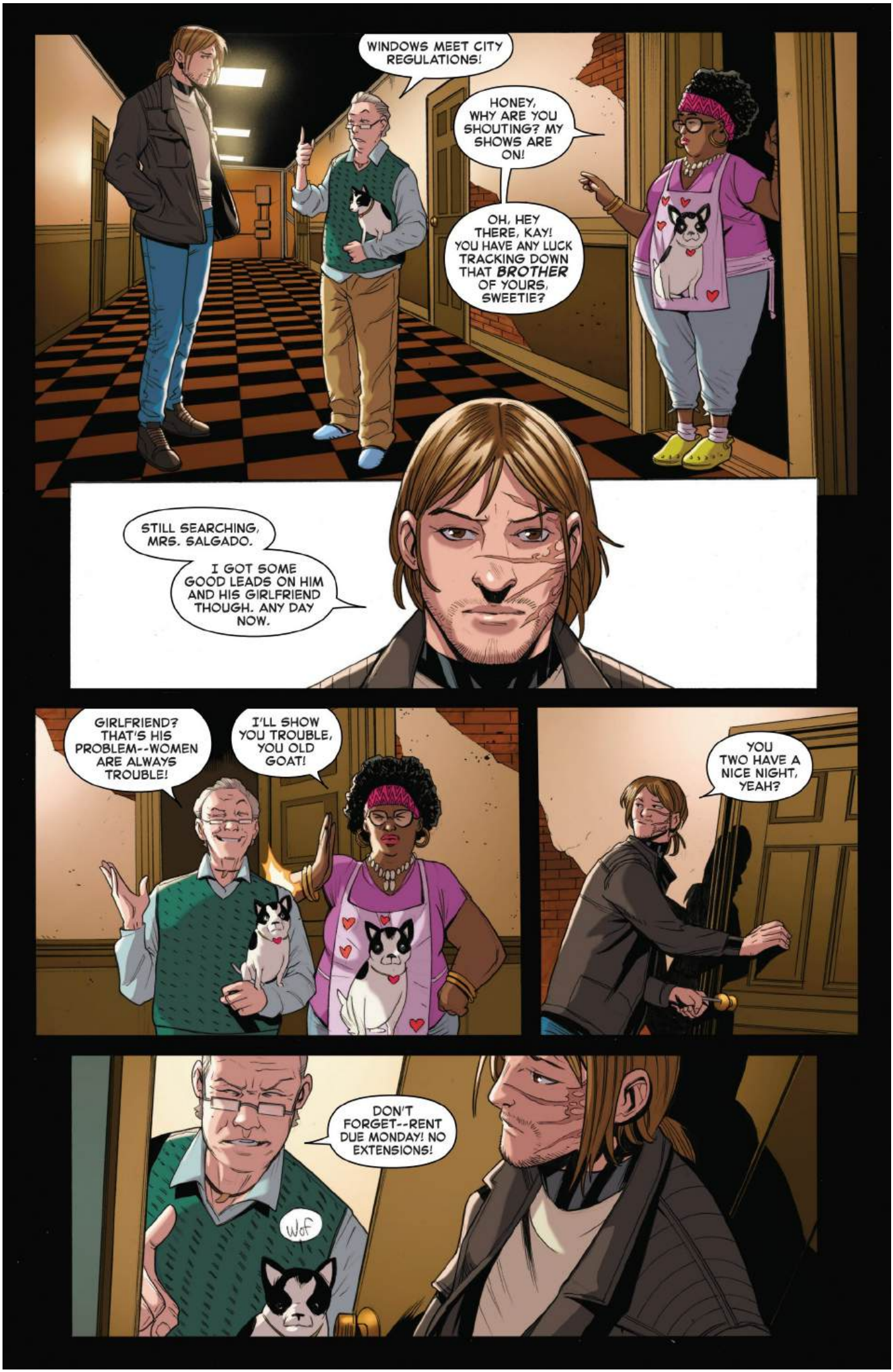
ELSEWHERE...
DO YOU KNOW WHY I CHOSE YOUR LITTLE SUBTERRANEAN WARREN AS A STAGING GROUND, "MOLE MAN"?
=HRRK-SNIFF=
BECAUSE I HAVE BEEN CURSED TO SUFFER, CAST DOWN AND OUT BY HATEFUL SURFACE DWELLERS LIKE YOU?
NO.
THWACK
GUH!

BECAUSE IT SEEMED EASY.
"SURFACE DWELLER" IS A WOEFULLY INADEQUATE DESCRIPTOR FOR ME, YOU FETID LUMP OF A MAN.
I AM DRUIG OF THE ETERNALS. YOU ARE SO LAUGHABLY BELOW MY STATURE THAT IT'S A BIT EMBARRASSING TO BE HAVING THIS CONVERSATION, ONE-SIDED AS IT MAY BE.
"BUT I HAVE RECENTLY EXPERIENCED A...HUMBLING PERIOD AMONG MY OWN PEOPLE.
"AND IN A LIFESPAN MEASURED IN MILLENNIA, ONE DOES SOMETIMES NEED A PICK-ME-UP."
CHECK OUT JUDGMENT DAY TO LEARN MORE OF DRUIG'S SCHEMES!
THE METROPOLIS OVER OUR HEADS IS DROWNING IN ALTRUISTIC COSTUMED FOOLS, BUT THE WORLD BENEATH...SO FEW DEIGN TO TURN OVER THE STONES AND PEEK AT WHAT LURKS HERE.
ONE CAN GET UP TO SO MUCH DELICIOUS TROUBLE DOWN BELOW...

"...WITH SO MANY FRIGHTFULLY INTERESTING PLAYTHINGS."
HHHHHIP
THIS IS ROTTEN. I THOUGHT BEN MIGHT NEED A SYMPATHETIC SHOULDER TO LEAN ON--
--BUT IF HE'S GONE FULL SLAUGHTER-HOUSE, I'LL HAVE TO PUT HIM DOWN.
PETER LENT ME A FEW OF THESE SPIDER-TRACERS AGES AGO.
SURPRISED THEY STILL WORK.
THWIP
THWAP
MAYBE THE CORONER'S OFFICE CAN GLEAN SOMETHING FROM THE BODIES--WHAT'S LEFT OF THEM--TO POINT ME IN CHASM'S DIRECTION.
ANYTHING'S BETTER THAN TRUDGING THROUGH SEWERS NIGHT AFTER NIGHT.

WHEN I HIT UP *MADAME WEB* FOR LEADS ON FINDING BEN, SHE ACCUSED ME OF "AVOIDANCE."
THOUGHT JULIA'S DEAL WAS "OMINOUS WARNINGS," NOT ARMCHAIR PSYCHIATRY.
BUT I GET WHAT SHE'S AFTER--ME AND "BEING ALIVE" DON'T MIX EASILY.
PUSHED *ARACELY* AWAY. REFUSED THE TEAMS THAT TRIED TO HAVE ME. SHOWED UP FOR THE OTHER SPIDERS ONLY IF THE UNIVERSE DEPENDED ON IT.
TRUTH IS, *KEEPING AN EYE ON BEN* IS ONE OF THE FEW CONSTANTS I'VE HAD SINCE GETTING A RENEWED LEASE ON LIFE.

MAYBE THAT'S MY CURSE.
BEING MY BROTHER'S KEEPER.
AMERICAN FOOD MARKET
ATM
DELI PIZZA 1$ HOT-DOG
NEW YORK GROCERY DELI
ROOF IS CLOSED AFTER DARK!
MR. SALGADO... NICE SEEING YOU TOO.
TOLD YOU BEFORE, KAY! IN YOUR LEASE TOO!
WOF
JUST NEEDED SOME FRESH AIR.
ALL THE WINDOWS IN MY UNIT ARE PAINTED SHUT.


WINDOWS MEET CITY REGULATIONS!
HONEY, WHY ARE YOU SHOUTING? MY SHOWS ARE ON!
OH, HEY THERE, KAY! YOU HAVE ANY LUCK TRACKING DOWN THAT BROTHER OF YOURS, SWEETIE?
STILL SEARCHING, MRS. SALGADO.
I GOT SOME GOOD LEADS ON HIM AND HIS GIRLFRIEND THOUGH. ANY DAY NOW.
GIRLFRIEND? THAT'S HIS PROBLEM--WOMEN ARE ALWAYS TROUBLE!
I'LL SHOW YOU TROUBLE, YOU OLD GOAT!
YOU TWO HAVE A NICE NIGHT, YEAH?
DON'T FORGET--RENT DUE MONDAY! NO EXTENSIONS!
WoF

SIGH
LET'S SEE IF YOUR GADGET STILL HAS JUICE TO POINT ME IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, PETE.
AND WHEREVER YOU ARE, BEN...

"...I HOPE YOU'RE NOT AS FAR GONE AS IT SEEMS."
Mumble
snore

DISPATCH SAID YOU HAD A WEIRD ONE FOR ME TONIGHT, JAKE.
PDNY
PDNY
PDNY
TAKE A PEEK-- I GOTTA SEE YOUR FACE WHEN YOU DO.
OH GOD. LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE ALREADY TRIED TO STITCH IT UP WRONG.
BUDDY, WE COULD PUT THIS THING IN A BLENDER, AND IT'D COME OUT LOOKING LIKE AN IMPROVEMENT.
WELL, BRING IT IN. AT LEAST IT'LL BE A CHANGE OF PACE.
WAIT UNTIL YOU SEE THE RAT MEN.
"RAT MEN?!"

WE'LL KEEP 'EM ON ICE UNTIL TOMORROW.
I'M NOT CUTTING INTO THOSE THINGS WITHOUT SOMEONE ELSE IN THE ROOM.
DON'T BLAME YOU FOR A SECOND, DOC.
LET'S GO.
CLAK
IT'S A SHAME TO LET BROKEN TOYS GO TO WASTE, DON'T YOU AGREE?
I DON'T DETECT ANY ANATOMICAL EXPERTISE IN THAT POCKMARKED BRAIN OF YOURS THOUGH.
NO BOTHER. I'LL WALK YOU THROUGH THE FIRST STEPS...
...AND THEN LET YOU IMPROVISE THE REST.

COME ON, WHERE COULD HE POSSIBLY HAVE--?
BEN?!
YOU SCARED THE CRAP OUT OF ME. I WAS READY TO RAZE THE CITY LOOKING FOR YOU. WHERE DID YOU GO?
I... I DON'T KNOW.
JANINE... WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?
OH, BABY.

THE MORGUE CHATTER MY TRACER PICKED UP TURNED TO SCREAMS ABOUT TEN BLOCKS BACK.
HOPEFULLY, THE TECHS GOT AWAY BEFORE--
NO. THAT'S CHASM'S WEBBING.
:GROOOOAN:
STILL ALIVE. BARELY.
DAMN IT, BEN. WHAT DID YOU DO?
SCREEECH

SCREEAAAARGRGGHHH!
EXIT
WHAT DID YOU DO?!

two

BELOW NEW YORK CITY.
DRUIG.
ETERNAL SCHEMER.
DO YOU KNOW WHY HUMAN SELF-AGGRANDIZERS LIKE YOURSELF NEVER ACCOMPLISH THE WORLD-CONQUERING PLOTS THAT CONSUME EVERY WAKING THOUGHT DURING YOUR PITIFULLY BRIEF EXISTENCES?
ASIDE FROM ALLOWING YOUR FOES...
...TO GRANT YOU HUMILIATING SOBRIQUETS LIKE "MOLE MAN"?
BECAUSE THE CRUEL HAND OF FATE ITSELF IS TURNED AGAINST OUTCASTS LIKE ME!
LIFE IS UNFAIR! UNKIND! WHILE FOOLS LIKE REED RICHARDS GET EVERY ADVANTAGE AND STILL--
SILENCE.
YOU FAIL BECAUSE YOU LACK THE PATIENCE...TO LET ALL OF THE PLAYERS ON THE BOARD FALL INTO PLACE...
...AT PRECISELY THE RIGHT TIME.

CITY MORGUE.
SCREAM
SON OF A #$%&!
SCREEAAARGRGGHH!
KAINE, A.K.A. SCARLET SPIDER.
THIS MISHMASH OF FREAK'S CORPSE AND VERMIN PARTS PACKS A PUNCH.
IF CHASM AND HALLOWS' EVE ARE MAKING MONSTERS AND PUTTING INNOCENT PEOPLE IN HARM'S WAY, MAYBE THIS SHOULDN'T BE MY PROBLEM ANYMORE.

AAAH! AAAH!
SOMEONE CALL SPIDER-MAN AND LET THE SCARLET SPIDER SIT THIS ONE OUT.
HRRGLLK?
BUT I'M NEVER THAT LUCKY, AM I?
UH-UH. KEEP YOUR SCABBY LITTLE EYES ON YOUR OLD FRIEND KAINE, RAT FINK.
THWAP
THWAP
GLURRKKH!
THAT'S RIGHT...

SKREAAUGHKK!
...FOLLOW THE BAIT!
THWAP
EXIT
RISKY LEADING THIS THING TOWARD THE CITY STREETS, BUT I GET ONE CHANCE AT THIS...
KRAK!
AMBULANCE
CRUNCH!

Hnhh.
THMP
THMP
HRRMHH?
ARGGH!

SLAM
CRUNCH
AMBULANCE
SCREEAAACCHH!
EXIT

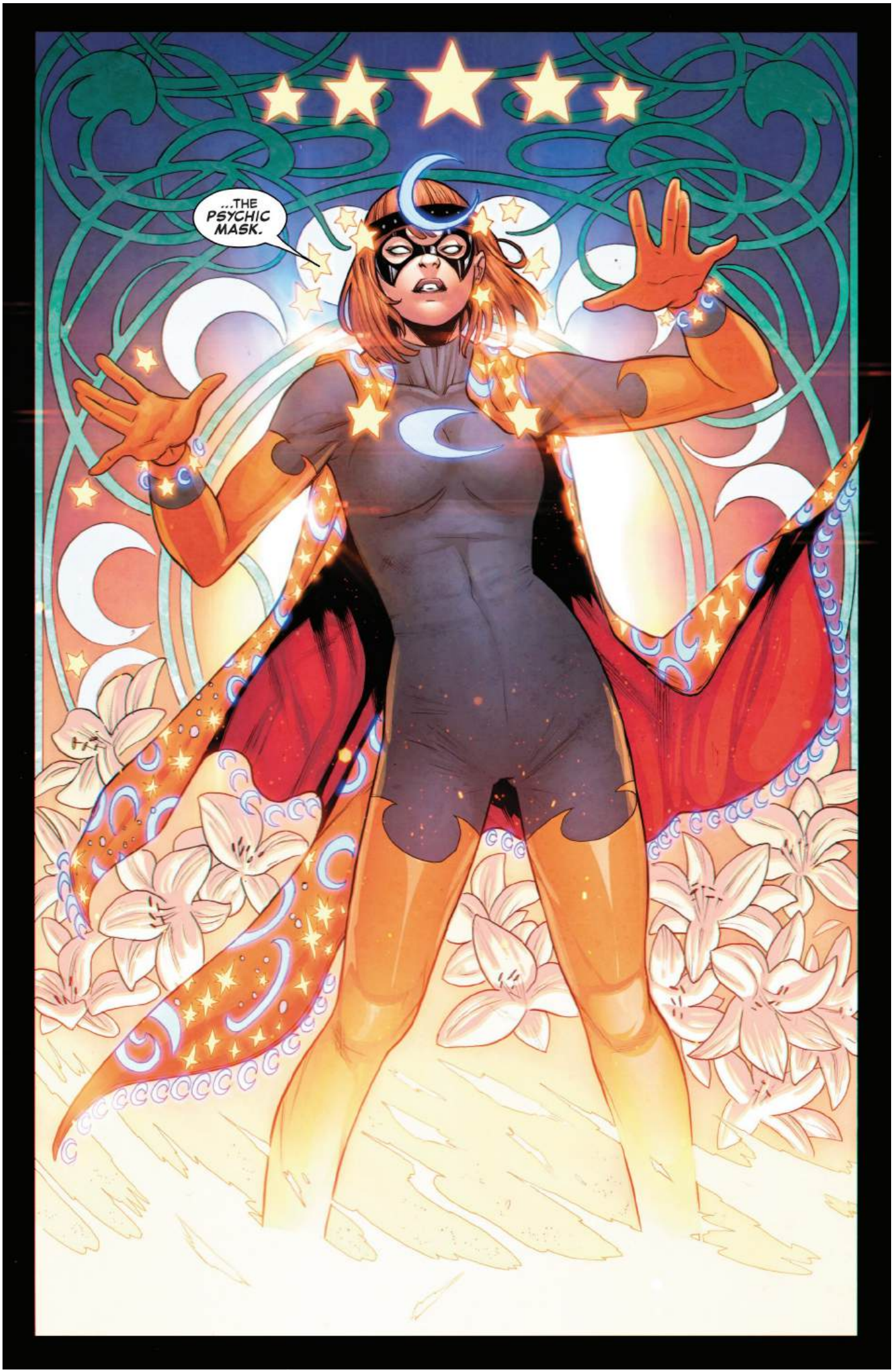
HUFF
HUFF
THAT'S RIGHT.
STAY DEAD THIS TIME.
BEN AND I HAVE BOTH CROSSED FAR, FAR OVER THE LINE BEFORE.
HOW MANY TIMES DO WE DESERVE TO BE PULLED BACK?
I WANT TO GIVE HIM A CHANCE, BUT WHEN DO OUR CHANCES RUN OUT?
NO! STAY AWAY!
SERIOUSLY--I JUST SAVED YOU FROM THAT THING AND YOU'RE AFRAID OF ME?
ARE YOU PEOPLE EVER GRATEFUL?
I'M GONNA KILL BEN WHEN I FIND HIM.
CAN'T DECIDE IF I MEAN THAT LITERALLY OR NOT, BUT I'M GONNA KILL HIM.

RAVENCROFT
RAVENCROFT INSTITUTE FOR THE CRIMINALLY INSANE.
DID YOU HEAR THAT?
SOME SORT OF GROWL...
IT CAME FROM OUTSIDE...
...DOPPELGANGER'S CELL.
GRRRRROWWWWL
=GULP=
HOWWWWWWL!

THAT SIX-ARMED WEIRDO IS GOING TO WET HIMSELF ANY TIME HE SEES A WINDOW!
HEHE-- NOT TOO LOUD!
I KNEW THIS WOULD CHEER ME UP. THANKS, JANINE.
LISTEN, I LOVE PROVOKING THE CRIMINALLY UNWELL AS MUCH AS THE NEXT GAL--
BEN REILLY, A.K.A. CHASM.
JANINE GOOBY, A.K.A. HALLOWS' EVE.
...BUT, BEN...YOU ASKED FOR HELP WITH THESE...EPISODES YOU'RE HAVING. BLACKOUTS, LAPSES. WHATEVER WE CALL THEM.
I'M HAPPY TO DISTRACT YOU, BUT WE SHOULD BE LOOKING FOR SOLUTIONS TOO. BESIDES...
"...YOU REALLY SCARED ME WHEN YOU DISAPPEARED EARLIER TONIGHT."

THEN WE'LL PUT CHAINS ON THE BED. BECAUSE, BABE...
...I TRIED DEMON MAGIC WITH THE GOBLIN QUEEN.* WE TRIED MAD SCIENCE WITH THE QUEEN GOBLIN.**
I DON'T KNOW HOW ELSE TO TRY TO FIX ME.
* IN DARK WEB!
** IN ASM #940-941!
AND I DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU IF PART OF ME IS ALWAYS GOING TO BE A LITTLE BROKEN.
BUT...THERE IS AN OPTION I'VE BEEN NERVOUS TO SUGGEST.
I MEAN, MADDIE PRYOR DIDN'T EXACTLY GIVE ME AN INSTRUCTION BOOKLET ON THESE MASKS, BUT I'VE BEEN PRACTICING...
BEN, YOU KNOW I'M WITH YOU NO MATTER WHAT.
US AGAINST THE WORLD.
...AND IF IT MEANS BEING ABLE TO HELP YOU, I'LL TRY ANYTHING.

SHORTLY...
IS THE EXTRA GOTH VIBE NECESSARY, BABE?
IT SHOULD HELP...CHANNEL THE RIGHT ENERGIES.
GO EASY ON ME--I'M FIGURING ALL OF THIS OUT ON MY OWN.
I'M NOT POSSESSED, JANINE.
I DON'T THINK AN EXORCISM IS GOING TO HELP WITH LOST TIME.
I CAN TELL NERVOUS WISE-ASS BEN REILLY FROM REGULAR CLOWN BEN REILLY.
SOMETHING OR SOMEONE IS INTERFERING WITH YOUR MIND. FRANKLY, THAT REALLY PISSES ME OFF, GIVEN EVERYTHING YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH.
SO I WANT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT--PERSONALLY. THIS ISN'T AN EXORCIST MASK. IT'S...


...THE PSYCHIC MASK.

NOW CLOSE YOUR EYES AND CLEAR YOUR THOUGHTS.
YOU GOING TO GIVE ME LUCKY LOTTO NUMBERS?
HUSH. IF YOU TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY FOR A MOMENT...
...I THINK...
...I CAN...
...ENTER...
...YOUR MIND.

MEANWHILE...
GAH!
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT STUFF MADE OF?
AH!
YOU--YOU'RE NOT WITH HIM, ARE YOU?
LET ME GUESS--SNARKY GUY IN A PURPLE SUIT KIND OF LIKE MINE, WITH A GIRLFRIEND WHO WAS WAY TOO INTO HALLOWEEN?
MADE A BUNCH OF MEAN PUNS, STITCHED TOGETHER THAT MONSTER, AND LEFT YOU STUCK TO THE WALL WHILE THEY RAN AWAY CACKLING?
NO, I'M NOT WITH THEM TONIGHT.
HUH.
Uhh...NOT EXACTLY. HE WAS ALONE AND DIDN'T SAY A WORD.
THAT WAS PART OF WHAT WAS SO FREAKY ABOUT HIM.
BEN REILLY--SILENT? NOW I KNOW SOMETHING IS UP.

HRRRRMMPH!
BIG SHAMBLING CHERRY ON TOP OF THIS GARBAGE EVENING--FREAK'S GONE.
SOS
STARTING TO GET THE FEELING BEN'S NOT THE ONE PULLING THE PUPPET STRINGS HERE.
AND I'M NOT SURE I WANT TO GET DRAGGED DOWN WITH HIM.

BEN... IT WORKED. I'M IN YOUR MIND.
I DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS WHAT IT'S LIKE FOR MUTANT PSYCHICS, BUT--
RRRVIP
OH!
FWMP
IF YOU CAN HEAR ME--OR SENSE ME--I'M GOING TO SEE IF I CAN FIND THE CAUSE OF THE MISSING TIME.

THERE'S... A LOT MISSING, ACTUALLY. BUT YOU ALREADY KNOW THAT.
WE'RE MAKING PEACE WITH THAT. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE HIM.
I THINK YOU MIGHT BE BETTER OFF NOT HAVING TO BE HIM...
THESE GAPS WOULDN'T BE CAUSING THE BLACKOUTS THOUGH.
I'M GOING DEEPER, BEN.
JANINE, WAIT--

--I DON'T WANT YOU TO SEE ME LIKE THIS.
BEN, IT'S OKAY. I KNOW WHERE YOU ARE NOW.
I DON'T CARE WHERE YOU STARTED OUT--
SHATTER-CRACK
BUT WHAT ABOUT WHERE I'M GOING, JANINE?
BECAUSE I PROMISE YOU...
...IT'S NOWHERE YOU'LL WANT TO FOLLOW, LITTLE GIRL!

AHHH!
Hnnhh--

DOWN BELOW.
HONESTLY, IF I DIDN'T FIND OPPORTUNITIES TO PROLONG THE INEVITABLE...
...THIS WOULD ALL BECOME TOO DULL.
NOW SCAMPER OFF, "MOLE MAN," AND READY THE ONE USE YOU OFFER BEYOND SERVING AS A RATHER MISSHAPEN FOOTREST.
YES! YES, FINALLY!
MY REVENGE IS AT HAND!

three

BENEATH THE STREETS OF NEW YORK.
THIS ISN'T YOU, BEN. WAKE UP!
CRAK
SOMEONE'S MESSING WITH YOUR HEAD AGAIN.
I WAS IN YOUR MIND-- I SAW HIM!
I--
UNHH!

REALLY? BECAUSE THE OL' NOGGIN'S NEVER FELT BETTER.
MAYBE THE PROBLEM...IS JUST THAT CHASM NEEDS TO BE A SOLO ACT.
I KNOW YOU, BABE. YOU WOULDN'T HURT ME.
EVEN WITH SOME MADMAN SCREWING WITH YOUR THOUGHTS.
YOU SURE ABOUT THAT... "BABE"?

GRARGH!
HEY, NO FAIR, GHOSTING ME LIKE THAT!
WOOSH
I'M GOING TO SNAP YOU OUT OF THIS, BEN!
DON'T GO PLAYING HARD TO GET, HONEY BUNCHES!
NO ONE LIKES A--
WAIT, WHERE... WHERE AM I?

JANINE? WHY AM I IN THE SEWER?
WHAT... WHAT HAPPENED?
NO... I LOST TIME AGAIN.
WHAT DID I DO? WHAT DID I DO?
DRUIG. ETERNAL SCHEMER.
OH, WHAT DIDN'T YOU DO, BENJAMIN REILLY?
"THE OL' NOGGIN'S NEVER FELT BETTER!"
DID I MANAGE TO INHABIT YOUR INCESSANT PATTER CONVINCINGLY?

I HAD NO DESIGNS FOR YOU, YOU KNOW. THE CITY'S WARRENS WERE ALREADY SO FULL OF EASILY MANIPULATED PLAYTHINGS.
BUT ALONG CAME A SPIDER.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT I DO EVERY FEW DECADES, WHEN MY FELLOW ETERNALS FRUSTRATE ME?
I CHOOSE AN OVERLOOKED CORNER OF THE EARTH AND FIND A PATHETIC MAN WITH JUST ENOUGH POWER.
I WHISPER IN HIS EAR. IT NEVER TAKES MUCH-- JUST A SUGGESTION THAT HE IS OWED MORE IN LIFE.
AND THEN I SIT BACK AND WATCH AS WARS ERUPT. RIOTS, COUPS, SOMETIMES THE DOWNFALLS OF ENTIRE NATIONS.
AN ENTERTAINING DIVERSION FOR A LIFE WITHOUT END.

TO BE FRANK, I SET MY SIGHTS *QUITE LOW* THIS TIME.
NEW YORK'S GLEAMING TOWERS ARE FULL OF PROTECTORS *PRETENDING* AT GODHOOD, YET THEY'VE ALLOWED THEIR CITY'S UNDERBELLY TO PROLIFERATE WITH *VERMIN* AND ALL *MANNER* OF MONSTERS.
HISS!
GRAAARGH!
HOW *ELUCIDATING* THEY MIGHT FIND IT TO HAVE THAT INFESTATION BROUGHT TO LIGHT, NO?
:SQUEEAK!:
BUT YOUR MIND IS *MUCH* MORE FASCINATING-- AND SO FRACTURED!
YOU WOULDN'T HURT ME.
SO I AM TORMENTING YOU, BENJAMIN REILLY, *BECAUSE I CAN.*
YOU WOULDN'T HURT ME.
BECAUSE IT IS *EASY,* AND NO ONE WILL STOP ME.
YOU WOULDN'T HURT ME.

I'LL STILL LET THAT FUSTY LITTLE "MOLE MAN" STORM THE SURFACE WORLD, OF COURSE. WHY STOP NOW?
BUT I'VE ALREADY LOST INTEREST IN THAT PROJECT, I'M AFRAID. YOUR CONFLICT IS SO MUCH MORE... ARCHETYPAL.
ESPECIALLY NOW THAT YOUR "BROTHER" KAINE IS CLOSE AT HAND TOO.
I WONDER-- DO I EVEN NEED TO NUDGE YOU TOWARD FIGHTING HIM, OR WILL IT COME NATURALLY?
AH, WELL. EITHER WAY, I AM OH-SO CURIOUS HOW MUCH ENTERTAINMENT YOU WILL PROVIDE BEFORE I GROW BORED.

THIS IS A NIGHTMARE.
I JUST GOT HIM BACK.
WHY CAN'T THE UNIVERSE CUT US A #$%& BREAK FOR ONE DAMN--?
YOU!
JANINE GODBE?
DOES ELEKTRA KNOW YOU'RE STEALING HER SHTICK?

IT'S HALLOWS' EVE TO YOU, KAINE.
ARE YOU RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON WITH BEN?
THIS MORE OF YOUR OLD SCARLET SPIDER RIVALRY CRAP?
I'M NOT BEHIND ANYTHING--AND I NEVER EVEN WANTED THE NAME!
ENOUGH, OKAY!
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR BEN SINCE I CAUGHT WIND OF THIS WHOLE CHASM DEAL. FIGURED I OWED HIM AT LEAST ONE HONEST CONVERSATION ABOUT WHERE WE STOOD.
BUT AFTER FIGHTING THAT MONSTER BEN MADE OUT OF FREAK'S DEAD BODY AND SOME SPARE VERMIN PARTS...
MONSTER? BEN AND I FOUGHT FREAK AND SAVED SOME BRAT KIDS, BUT BEN DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WITH THE BODIES.
WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE DO YOU THINK WE ARE?

THAT'S WHAT I'M TRYING TO FIND OUT.
WHERE'S YOUR LOVER BOY NOW?
...TRYING TO KILL ME.
BACK UP. I'M MISSING SOME KEY PARTS OF THE STORY HERE.
YOU AND ME BOTH!
I WOKE UP DAMP WITH SEWER WATER AND SURROUNDED BY MOLE PEOPLE.
NEXT THING I KNOW, BEN'S CHASING ME. I THOUGHT IT WAS A WEIRD JOKE...BUT HE WASN'T LAUGHING.
HE'S HAVING BLACKOUTS. TIME HE CAN'T ACCOUNT FOR.
LAST NIGHT, HE LEFT FOR HOURS. HE CAN'T REMEMBER ANY OF IT.

AFTER ALL THE MENTAL UPS AND DOWNS BEN'S BEEN THROUGH, YOU DIDN'T THINK MISSING TIME WAS SOMETHING THAT MIGHT NEED IMMEDIATE ATTENTION?
WHERE WERE WE SUPPOSED TO GO, KAINE? RING UP DOCTOR STRANGE? SWING BY MISTER FANTASTIC'S FREE SUPER-SCIENCE CLINIC?
BEN'S NO ONE'S FAVORITE PERSON SINCE THE LIMBO STUFF, OKAY?
WE'VE ONLY GOT EACH OTHER TO RELY ON.
THIS IS EXACTLY WHY I KNEW I NEEDED TO TRACK BEN DOWN. HE CAN'T BE TRUSTED TO LOOK AFTER HIMSELF.
AND YOU TRYING TO TAKE CARE OF HIM IS LIKE CLEANING UP AN OIL SPILL WITH A FLAME-THROWER.
YEAH, YOU'RE A REAL EXPERT LIFE COACH, KAINE.
IF SOMEONE IS MESSING WITH BEN'S HEAD, WE SHOULDN'T STAY CONFINED TO DANK, DARK TUNNELS WHERE WE HAVE NO VISIBILITY AND NOWHERE TO MANEUVER.
ESPECIALLY SINCE, UNLIKE BEN, I DON'T HAVE--

"SPIDER-SENSE." TELL ME YOU WERE GONNA SAY "SPIDER-SENSE."
BECAUSE I'LL ADMIT, "CHASM-SENSE" DOES NOT HAVE THE SAME RING TO IT.
SHUNK
AHKK!

NOT HOW I WANTED THIS REUNION TO GO, BEN.
CAREFUL, BRO--THIS "CHASM-SENSE" OF MINE IS A BIT JUMPY.
Hnhhh.
I DIDN'T LIKE THE WAY YOU WERE GETTING IN MY GIRL'S FACE JUST NOW, KAINE-Y, BOY.
FWIP
BEN, DOES THIS MEAN YOU'RE YOU AGAIN...?

SERIOUSLY, JANINE--YOU'RE SWOONING AT HIM GOING AX MURDERER?
THMP
HEY, THE LADY KNOWS WHAT SHE WANTS!
SWISH
I CAME HERE TO HELP YOU, BEN!
YOU DESERVE BETTER THAN ONE HEAD-SCREW AFTER ANOTHER.
I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP, BRO. I'M DOING JUST--
A BIT MORE BLOODSHED, BENJAMIN.
I FEEL A YAWN COMING ON.
OH NO... IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN.

GRAAARGH!
DAMN IT, BEN!
SHHLK
COULDN'T TELL WHERE THE LONG-RUNNING SIBLING RESENTMENT ENDED AND THE MIND CONTROL BEGAN, BUT I KNOW THAT VACANT STARE BY NOW.
IF YOU'RE REALLY THIS FAR GONE, BEN, I WILL PUT YOU DOWN!
LOTTA THREATS FROM THE GUY ON THE RECEIVING END OF THE AX.
STOP IT, BEN!
ET TU, BABE?

KAINE'S A #$%&, BUT HE'S NOT THE BAD GUY HERE.
SOMEONE'S IN YOUR HEAD. CAN'T YOU FEEL IT, BEN?
I KNOW YOU WOULDN'T ACT LIKE THIS OTHERWISE.
I KNOW YOU WOULDN'T HURT ME.
THIS ISN'T GOING TO WORK.
WE NEED TO GET HIM TO SOME SORT OF FACILITY THAT CAN--
HNNHH!
AH, A SHAME. WILLPOWER.
BUT DON'T THINK YOU CAN BE RID OF ME THAT EASILY, BENJAMIN REILLY.
KRAK

I'M SO SORRY, BABY. I'M SO, SO SORRY.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE.
I SAW THAT MONSTER IN YOUR HEAD. I KNEW IT WASN'T YOU.
VERY TOUCHING. BUT BEFORE BEN'S SWITCH GETS FLIPPED BACK TO PSYCHO MODE, DOES ANYONE HAVE ANY CLUE WHO'S PULLING THESE PUPPET STRINGS?
I CAN REMEMBER BITS AND PIECES NOW, BUT IT'S LIKE A DREAM. A REALLY TERRIBLE DREAM.
WEASELLY GUY. GREEN-AND-PURPLE ROBES. TALKED ABOUT BEING IMMORTAL...OR ETERNAL?
OH GOD, BEN--DID YOU PISS OFF AN ETERNAL?
IT WAS ALL A GAME TO HIM. AND I WASN'T EVEN THE POINT.
HE SAID SOMETHING... SOMETHING ABOUT SETTING THE UNDER-WORLD LOOSE--
KRAKA-THOOM
HOW LITERALLY DID HE MEAN "UNDERWORLD"?!

RUMBLE-SMASH
AT LONG LAST, THE SURFACE WORLD SHALL TREMBLE IN FEAR AND RESPECT WHEN IT HEARS THE NAME MOLE MAN!
AHH!
HISSSSS!
HATE
FREEGINOSHA
KAY? IS THAT YOU AGAIN?
I TOLD YOU, THE ROOF IS CLOSED AFTER DARK!
WOF!

WE NEED TO GET TOPSIDE.
YEAH? WHAT WAS YOUR CLUE--THE BONE-RATTLING EXPLOSION, DETECTIVE?
THWIP
FWIP
#$%&.
MOVE, BRO-- LEMME SEE.
OH, YEAH-- "#$%&" KINDA SUMS IT UP.

THIS IS AS BAD AS THE LIMBO STUFF, BABY.
ROAAARGH!
EXCEPT THIS TIME, I DON'T HAVE A SWEET SCYTHE AND KILLER WINGS.
COME ON-- WE NEED TO HELP THESE PEOPLE.
THWIP
THWIP
YEAH, HAVE FUN WITH THAT.
I'M GOING TO TRACK DOWN THE SICK BASTARD WHO STARTED ALL THIS...AND GIVE HIM A PIECE OF MY MIND.

FOUR

QUEENS, NEW YORK.
THOUGHT I OWED IT TO BEN TO CHECK UP ON HIM--SEE WHAT THE HELL THIS CHASM #$%& WAS ALL ABOUT.
GAH! HELP ME!
NO GOOD DEED GOES UNPUNISHED, RIGHT? HE AND HIS SPOOKY GIRLFRIEND DRAGGED ME RIGHT INTO A SEWER TAKEOVER OF NEW YORK CITY.
BUT THESE LITTLE FREAKS AREN'T EVEN IN CONTROL OF THEIR ACTIONS.
IF WHAT BEN SAID IS RIGHT, THEY'RE BEING EGGED ON BY AN ETERNAL PLAYING MIND GAMES.
UNFORTUNATELY FOR THESE BYSTANDERS, THEY'RE STUCK WITH US UNTIL THE STENCH OF THIS MESS HITS AVENGERS MANSION.
(OR WHEREVER THE HELL THE GOOD GUYS ARE HOLED UP THESE DAYS.)

ROOAAR!
THANK YOU, THANK YOU SO MUCH--
HSSSS!
AND HALLOWS' EVE ISN'T EVEN REALLY HELPING ANYONE...
...SHE'S JUST CLEARING THE WAY FOR CHASM TO HUNT DOWN THE GUY RESPONSIBLE FOR SCREWING WITH HIS HEAD THIS TIME.
THUMP
THANKS, BABE. YOU KNOW HOW WEIRDLY SEXY I FIND YOUR KITTY-CAT FORM.
I BLAME '80s CARTOONS.

CHASM, EVE--THESE PEOPLE NEED OUR HELP.
WE CAN TRACK DOWN YOUR GUY *AFTER* WE--
SKREEEE!
THWACK
HELP YOURSELF BEFORE ASSISTING OTHERS, BRO.
DO YOU *EVEN READ* THE AIRLINE SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS?
C'MON, BABE--I'M GONNA STRANGLE THIS PUPPET MASTER WITH HIS OWN STRINGS.

Hnhh.
GUESS THE BROTHERLY CONCERN...ISN'T MUTUAL.
UNFFHH!
MAN, YOU'RE UGLY. AND COMING FROM ME, THAT'S REALLY SAYING SOME--
THWP
THWP
Hggk.

FWP
YOU SURE WE SHOULDN'T HELP KAINE WITH THAT FREAKY RAT KING BACK THERE?
PSH, THE "SCARLET SPIDER" CAN HOLD HIS OWN.
AND IF HE CAN'T, WELL, HE PRETTY MUCH ALWAYS COMES BACK FROM THE DEAD.
FWP
PRETTY MUCH.
YOUR MESSED-UP CLONE BROTHER, YOUR CALL.
BUT HOW ARE WE EVEN GOING TO FIND THE GUY TWEAKING YOUR THOUGHTS? HE COULD BE ANYWHERE BY NOW.
THWAK
IT'S LIKE THERE'S AN ITCH IN THE BACK OF MY SKULL, JANINE--I THINK HE WANTS ME TO FIND HIM.
AND THAT'S NOT SETTING OFF FLASHING RED ALARMS FOR YOU?
BEN, I WAS IN YOUR HEAD WITH HIM. HE'S REALLY SCARY. IF WE'RE WALKING INTO A TRAP--
BABE, BABE! LISTEN TO ME.

YOU'RE RIGHT-- THIS "ETERNAL"? HE GOT IN MY HEAD. MESSED ME UP BAD. AND I'M SICK TO DEATH OF PEOPLE SCREWING WITH MY THOUGHTS AND MEMORIES.
BUT HE PUSHED HIS LUCK WHEN HE TRIED TO MAKE ME HURT YOU. THAT SNAPPED ME OUT OF IT. I COULD NEVER GO THROUGH WITH THAT.
SO I'M NOT AFRAID TO FACE HIM AGAIN, 'CUZ WITH YOU BY MY SIDE? NO ONE'S GETTING IN MY HEAD AGAIN...
...BECAUSE I'VE GOT YOU IN MY HEART.
AHH!
BEN REILLY... THAT'S THE CORNIEST #$%& I'VE EVER HEARD.
HELP!
I LOVE YOU, BABE.
EATING MY FACE!
FOREVER AND EVER.
OH GOD, WHY ME?!
WON'T SOMEONE PLEASE SAVE US?

NOW C'MON--WE'RE GETTING CLOSE.
SHK
SHK
SHK
COMICS STORE
MARVEL
AH! CHASM-SENSE!
STILL WORKSHOPPING THE NAME.
TREMBLE IN TERROR, SURFACE FIENDS!
YOU WILL FINALLY KNOW THE TRUE MIGHT OF YOUR SUBTERRANEAN MASTERS--SO SWEARS THE MOLE MAN!
GRROOAGH!
GO--I'VE GOT THIS.
YOU SURE, BABE? THE MOLE GUY LOOKS LIKE A SUPER-LOSER, BUT THAT BEASTIE IS PRETTY BIG.
YEAH, DON'T SWEAT IT.
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO WEAR THIS MASK...

...BUT I NEVER HAD SOMEONE MY OWN SIZE TO PICK ON!
GRRAARGH!
WELL, AT LEAST I DON'T FIND GIANT-LIZARD JANINE WEIRDLY SEXY...
...WAIT A SECOND.

UNHFF
I WAS JUST ON MY WAY OUT WHEN YOU CAUGHT MY ATTENTION.
SO BEN DID PISS OFF AN ETERNAL.
DRUIG, RIGHT? REMEMBER ME FROM WHEN THE NEW WARRIORS KICKED ALL OF YOUR ASSES?
I DON'T. YOU TRULY CAN'T COMPREHEND HOW INSIGNIFICANT I CONSIDER MOST HUMANS.
YOUR "BROTHER" IS ON HIS WAY HERE FOR SOME GRAND CATHARTIC CLASH. HOWEVER, I FIND FISTICUFFS SO PRIMITIVE, AND HE CANNOT KILL ME IN ANY WAY THAT MATTERS.
WHEN I TIRE OF MY LITTLE ASIDES, I SIMPLY... LEAVE.
BUT IT WOULD BE TERRIBLY UNFULFILLING FOR BENJAMIN IF HE DIDN'T GET TO ENGAGE IN BATTLE WITH THE MAN WHO TWISTED HIS MIND OUT OF SHAPE, DON'T YOU AGREE?
PERHAPS A TRULY LOVING BROTHER COULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT...

MOOD
HATE
COME OUT, YOU PIECE OF #$%&!
I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE! I CAN FEEL IT!
ANTI MUTANT
DRUIG'S GONE, BEN-- IT WAS ALL A SICK GAME TO HIM, AND ALL OF US GOT PLAYED.
HELLO, CHASM-- HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE A PAWN IN THE WISE AND MIGHTY DRUIG'S GAME?
"WISE AND MIGHTY," MY #$%&.
I WON'T BE A PAWN TO ANYONE EVER AGAIN, DRUIG.
AND I'M GOING TO TEACH YOU WHAT HAPPENS TO PEOPLE WHO MESS WITH MY HEAD!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, BEN?
IT'S ME, KAINE!
PREPARE TO EXPERIENCE HELL AT MY HANDS, BENJAMIN.
AND INFINITE PAIN!

BUDDY-- PAIN AND ME GO WAY BACK!
DAMN IT, BEN!
DRUIG'S STILL IN YOUR HEAD.
PATHETIC, BENJAMIN!
YOU STILL DON'T TRUST YOUR OWN MIND.
PLEASE, LET'S FIND JANINE AND GET OUT OF HERE.
WE NEED TO CUT OUR LOSSES AND MOVE ON.
I WONDER, IS JANINE EVEN SAFE AROUND YOU ANYMORE?
I COULD MAKE YOU CUT HER THROAT IF I LIKED.
SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID HER NAME.
DAMN IT, THIS IS HAPPENING.

I'LL KILL YOU!
SHK
SURE SEEMS LIKE IT.

SHHLKK
DAMN IT--BEN'S GOING TO CUT ME IN TWO IF I CAN'T BREAK DRUIG'S HOLD ON HIM.
WHICH WOULD OFFICIALLY BE THE STUPIDEST WAY I'VE DIED.
LET'S SEE HOW "ETERNAL" YOU REALLY ARE.
SORRY, BEN. LOOKS LIKE DRUIG'S DECIDED IT'S EITHER ME OR YOU, AND I CHOOSE--
GORGHH!
KRNCH
THWIP THWIP
--TO SAY #$%& THAT.

THWAP
THWAP
SNAP OUT OF IT, YOU IDIOT!
FWSHUUUNNK

HNH.
BROUGHT LOW BY IMPERFECT DUPLICATES WITH UNSTABLE MINDS-- HOW TERRIBLY HUMBLING.
I SUPPOSE I'LL NEED TO ENACT SOME SORT OF CREATIVELY VILE REVENGE UPON--
AH! ENOUGH!
ENOUGH SPIDERS!

KAINE...?
WHEN DID YOU GET HERE?
YOU'VE BEEN SLICING AND DICING ME THINKING I WAS DRUIG FOR THE LAST TEN MINUTES, YOU ASS.
NOW HELP ME UP, I--
WAIT... DRUIG. HE'S GONE.
THAT ITCH IN MY HEAD. THAT CONSTANT WEIRD PRESSURE. ALL GONE-- I'M FINALLY FREE!
BRING IT IN, MAN!
YOU'RE A MIRACLE WORKER. HOW'D YOU KNOW TURNING MY AX BACK ON ME WOULD SEVER THE CONNECTION?
YEAH... DEFINITELY KNEW THAT.
ALSO, UHH, BEN-- BEHIND YOU.
THIS FREAK NEVER QUITS.
YOU KNOW WHAT? WHY NOT.
LET'S DO THIS! ROUND TWO. TAG-TEAM MATCH--

SPLORCH
DID YOU FINALLY GET HIM, BABY? THE MONSTER BEHIND EVERYTHING?
NAH--HE'S LONG GONE, BUT I DID THE NEXT BEST THING--
--BROKE THE CONNECTION AND GOT TO BEAT UP KAINE.
MUTANT
HE'S OUTTA MY HEAD, BABE.
MY MIND'S CLEAR AS CAN BE.
YOU DID IT, BEN. IT'S OVER--WE SURVIVED.

YEAH, STORYBOOK ENDING--BUT YOU *DO REMEMBER* THAT THE CITY IS STILL OVERRUN WITH MONSTERS, RIGHT?
SEVERING DRUIG'S CONNECTION WITH BEN DIDN'T SEND THE MOLOIDS AND VERMIN SCURRYING BACK UNDERGROUND.
AHH!
HUGE BUMMER. BUT I THINK YOU MISSED THE FAMILY NEWSLETTER.
FAR AS MOST OF THE CITY'S CONCERNED? WE *ARE* THE MONSTERS.
SO THIS MESS ISN'T *OUR PROBLEM*. AND IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE YOURS EITHER.
I RESPECT THAT DEGREE OF SOCIOPATHY, BUT I'M GOING BACK OUT THERE.
HEY, BEFORE YOU PLAY HERO AGAIN--THANKS FOR STABBING ME IN THE HEAD, BRO.
I'M SURE YOU'D DO THE SAME FOR ME.
YOU GUYS ARE #$%& UP.
IT'S BEEN FUN, KAINE. SEE YA AROUND.
THWIP
THWIP
NO OFFENSE, BEN--BUT FOR BOTH OF OUR SAKES I HOPE NOT.
NOT SURE WE COULD *SURVIVE* ANOTHER GET-TOGETHER.
FWIP

LATER, BACK IN QUEENS...
MR. AND MRS. SALGADO... I SWEAR I WASN'T ON THE ROOF--
STORAGE ROOM
YOU ALL RIGHT, KAY? YOU LOOK REAL HAGGARD.
I'M FINE, REALLY. I FINALLY FOUND MY BROTHER, AND IT WAS JUST A VERY...TAXING REUNION.
WOF
YEAH, YEAH, LOOKS LIKE IT.
HEY, LISTEN-- CAN YOU HELP WITH SOMETHING? WE GOT A LITTLE PEST PROBLEM.
WOF
NOTHING YOU NEED TO REPORT TO THE CITY, OKAY?
LOVE
CAUT
SKREE!
SIGH

AND AT LAST...
HOW'RE YOU FEELING, BEN?
LIKE WE FINALLY HAVE THAT FRESH START. HAD TO FIGHT LIKE HELL FOR IT...BUT WE GOT IT.
SO...WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH IT?
WHATEVER THE #$%& WE WANT.
THE END.

#1 STORMBREAKERS VARIANT BY

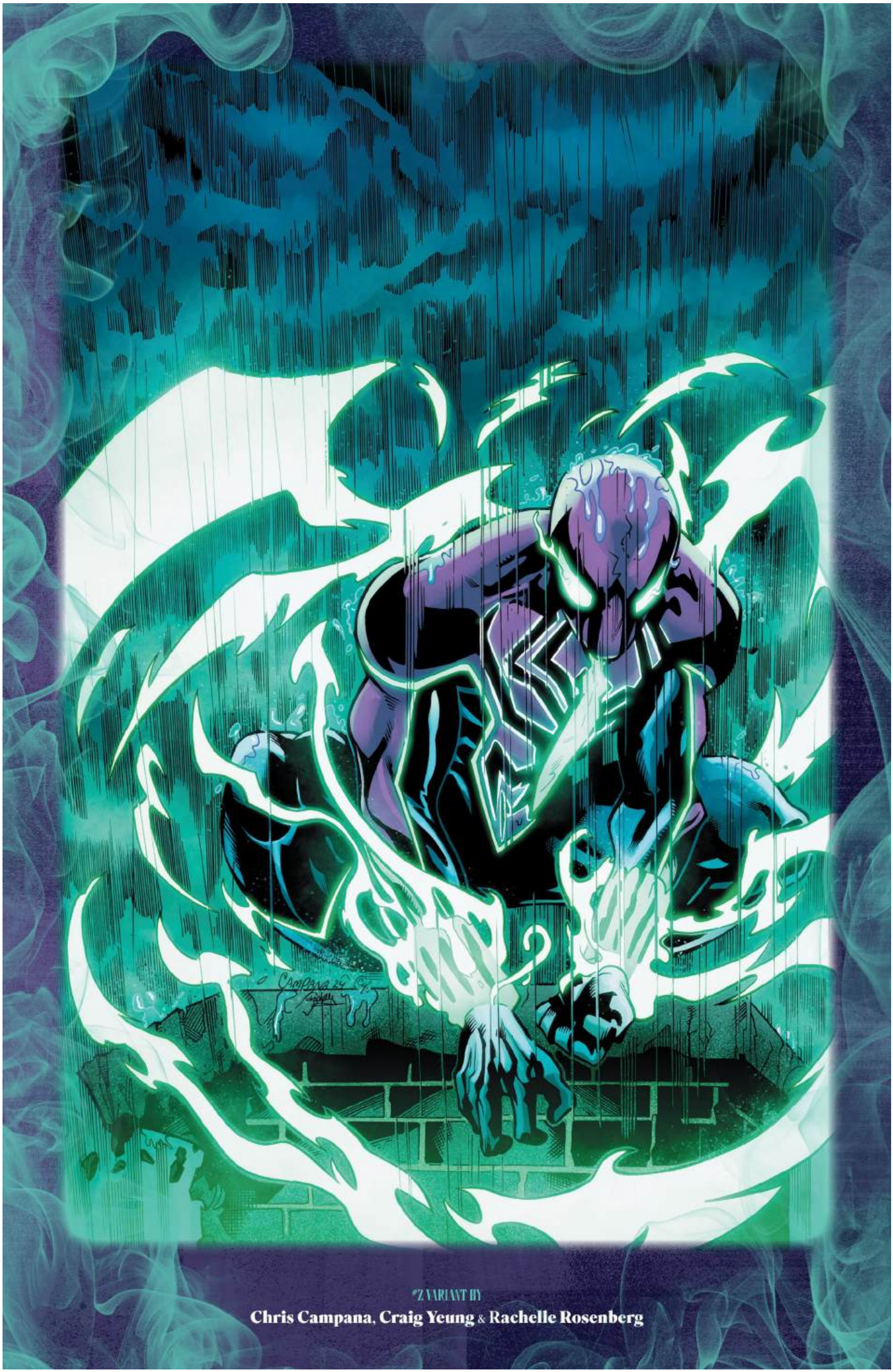
Elena Casagrande & **Annalisa Leoni**

#1 VARIANT BY

Martín Cóccolo & Dean White

#1 VARIANT BY

Salvador Larroca & Edgar Delgado



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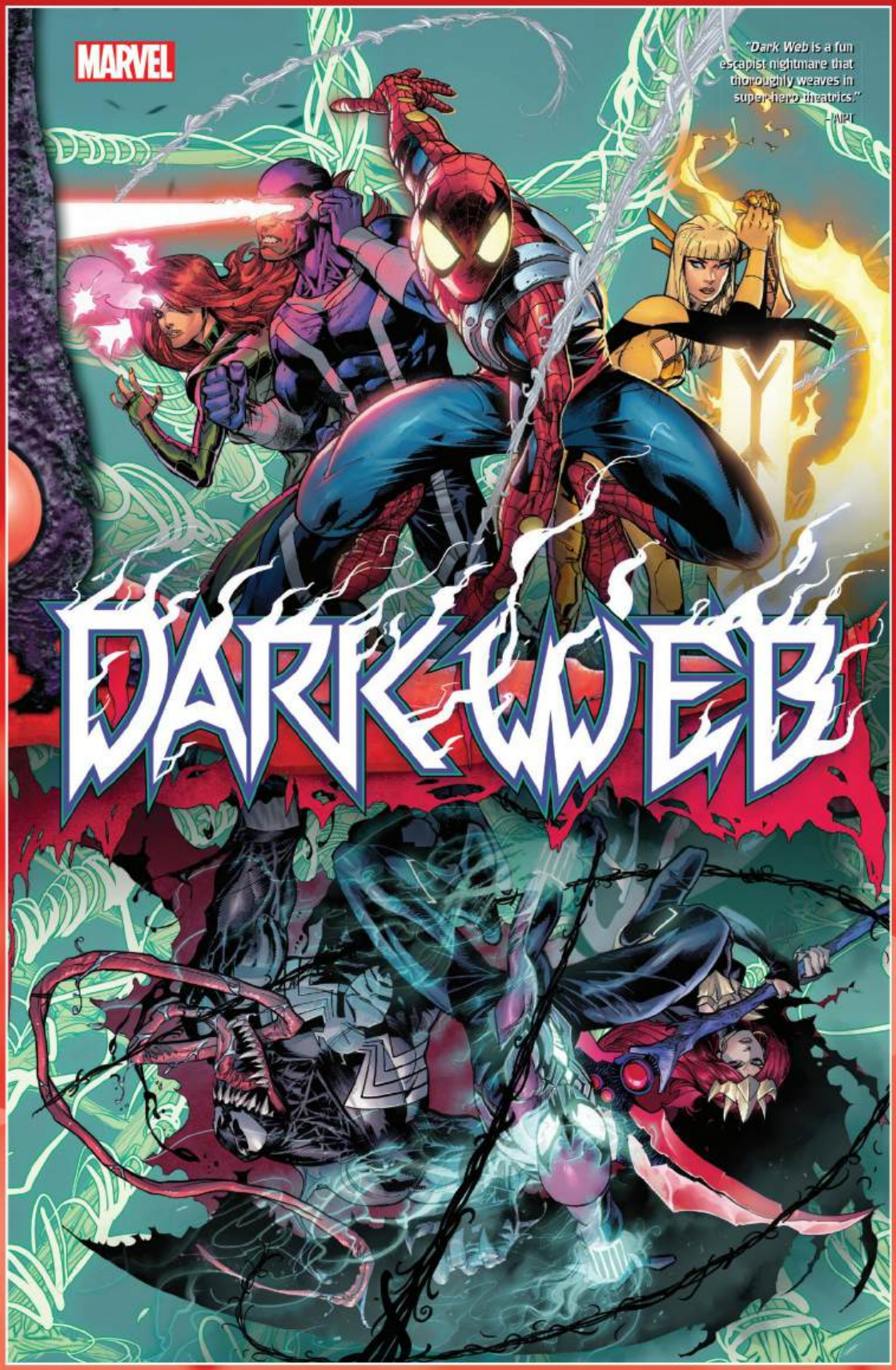

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